

**Abstract****A MECHANISM FOR CONTROLLING IF/WHEN MATERIAL CAN BE  
PRINTED ON A SPECIFIC PRINTER**

5        A secure print system comprises a sending computer entity and a plurality  
of receiving entities, each capable of decrypting and printing a specified number  
of copies of a document. The sending computer entity and the plurality of  
receiving devices are each pre-registered with each other by means of unique  
device identification number, which is embedded in inaccessible hardware,  
10    firmware or software components at the point of manufacture, linking the sending  
computer entity and the plurality of receiving devices. The receiving devices,  
after decrypting a received message, print a specified number of copies only,  
before deleting the electronic data from which the document copies have been  
printed.

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